Pharmaceutical industry, and the possibility of establishing an up-to-date Engineering Works is under consideration. Buttons form an essential part of a soldier's equipment, and arrangements are in train for starting a button factory in the State. A Strawboard Factory also will shortly start production. Coir continues to be one of the most important commodities supplied for war purposes. There has been some revival in the coir trade, but the arrangements made in the States for the supply of large quantities of coir for war purposes at reasonable prices have not been altogether satisfactory and the two Governments of Travancore and Cochin are jointly considering the question of themselves taking up the responsibility of supplying coir for war purposes, distributing the orders equitably among the trade interests concerned in the two States. Other important supplies made for war purposes from the State are tentage, glycerine, soap, textiles and tiles. The ancient trade of ship-building has been revived in Cochin and while it is not possible for Security reasons to give details, a variety of small craft are being constructed.

The Hon'ble Minister will deal with various steps taken under his guidance to develop small scale industries, but special mention may be made here of the organisation under the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce for accepting contracts from the Supply Department of the Government of India and getting them executed by small scale industries. In all it is estimated that under all heads supplies worth about Rs. 2 crores have been sent from the State for war purposes.

OTHER WAR EFFORTS

Cochin's total contribution to War Funds amounts to Rs. 10·46 lakhs of which Rs. 5 lakhs has been contributed by the public. Of this total, Rs. 7 lakhs was earmarked for H.M.I.S. Cochin, and in addition large sums have been contributed to such worthy causes as the Red Cross, Special funds for Sailors and amenities for troops, particularly in the Cochin Area. Provision is made in the budget for a special contribution of Rs. 1 lakh to the State War Purposes Fund.

I need not here detail the varied activities of the War Publicity Department and the National War Front which have concentrated, during the year, on maintaining public morale and encouraging both the war effort and nation-saving activities such as the Grow-More-Food-Campaign.

COCHIN RESTAURANTS

An interesting new activity being undertaken by the War Publicity Department with the help of the Supply Department is the establishment of Cochin Restaurants. As is well known it has proved a difficult task to accustom the people to eat, what, for the sake of convenience we call, dry grains, though it is essential that they should do so if their health and strength is to be maintained. Accordingly on the advice of the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India—who was up to recently the Chief Rationing Authority in London—who recently visited the State, we propose to open restaurants modelled, with necessary local modifications, on the British restaurants which have been so successful in Britain under the rationing Scheme there. At these restaurants the use of rice will be forbidden and attractive dishes prepared from other grains will be served, outside the ration. Cooking demonstrations will also be given. It is hoped by this means to popularise the use of dry grains in various centres in the State.

CONCLUSION

Standing as we do at the threshold of another year and taking stock of the position, we can, I think, claim that we have made a worthy attempt to surmount internal difficulties, by far the greatest of which was grave food scarcity, and have, at the same time, far from suffering from a deterioration in morale which might well be expected to follow food shortage, played, considering our limited resources in men and material, a notable part in India's united effort to win the war and create a better world in the future. Having survived together, without flinching, this difficult year, we can face the future with confidence, because we know that our people can take it, and we feel that the rest of India, realising what we have done and are doing, will see to it that we shall not, in the year which lies ahead, suffer so disproportionately as in the past from the difficult food situation created by Japanese aggression in Burma. Our financial position is sound, enabling us, as in the last year, to increase our reserves to meet possible future contingencies and at the same time to make ample provision not only for the safety of the State, but also for extensive activities designed to increase food production, to provide employment, and to ameliorate the condition of the masses.

The people of the State have patiently borne great trials during the past year, and in concluding my second and last budget speech, I should like to pay a respectful tribute to their patience, to their fortitude and above all to their loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja, who has

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